Rise in Bunker Charges

1468. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian shipping companies are apprehending a steep escalation in bunker charges following the rise in oil prices after the terrorist attacks in US;

(b) if so, whether the bunker charges have already started moving up;

(c) to what extent Indian shipping companies have been affected; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to help the shipping industry?

THE MINISER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The industry was indeed apprehending a steep escalation in bunker prices following the September 11th terrorist attack, when the crude prices shot up to about US $ 31 per barrel. However, this turned out to be a very temporary affair. The crude oil price has since declined and so has the bunker price. The declining trend in both crude and bunker oil prices continues and thus there has not been any adverse impact on Indian Shipping as was initially expected.

Programmes for Physically Handicapped Persons in Assam

1469. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes and schemes formulated and implemented by Government for physically handicapped persons in Assam;

(b) the total amount allocated for the above schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the details of amount utilized for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The schemes and programme being implemented for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in Assam include Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD). An amount of Rs. 366.53 lakhs has been sanctioned during the last three years (i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) for Assam under these schemes / programme.